PRETTY AND ABLE.

SOME NOTABLE WOMEN OF THE EASTERN METROPOLIS.

They Are Writers of Plays and Composers of Music — Misses Morton, Stone and Ives and Their Most Recent Productions.

New York Letter.

MISS MARTHA Morton is one of the cleverest American playwrights and has an exceptional record extending back seven or eight years. Her first play was "Helaine," produced at the Fifth Avenue theater in 1889. Clara Morris afterward starred in it for several years under the title of "The Refugee's Daughter." "The Merchant," however was the play which brought Miss Morton most prominently before the public. It was first brought out at the Union Square with Selina Feiter, E. J. Henley and Nelson Wheatcroft in the cast. Subsequently it was purchased by Thomas McDonough, who put it on for an extended run at the Madison Square theater and later sent it out as a popular attraction on the road.

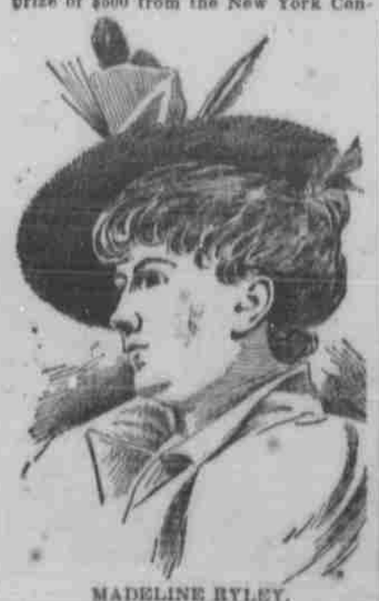
"Jeffrey Middleton," her next play, was brought out in Minneapolis by Augustus Pitou. This was so successful that it brought her an order to write a play for William H. Crane. This she called "Brother John," and Crane had a prosperous season at the Star theater with it. A Chicago "Brother John" had an almost unprecedented run, yielding $90,000 in six weeks.

Miss Morton's latest play, "His Wife's Father," which made such a hit recently at the Fifth Avenue, with Crane as the star, is undoubtedly her best, and, indeed, one of the best plays ever written by a woman.

Miss Morton is a New York girl and received her education at one of the public schools of the city. She began writing short stories and poems for magazines when quite young, but soon found her dramatic instinct too strong for such limitations, and in her first dramatic efforts proved herself to possess a knowledge of stagecraft that amounted to genius and is usually acquired only after years of experience and drudgery. But she is not the only playwright of her sex here.

Miss Marguerite Merrington, who is a college professor, wrote her first play for E. H. Sothern. "Capt. Letterblair" was given an elaborate production two seasons ago at the Lyceum, where it ran successfully for many weeks. "Good-By" and "A Lover's Knot" were Miss Merrington's next successes. At present she is engaged on a play which Mr. Sothern expects to bring out soon, a historical drama called "Bonnie Prince Charlie." She also wrote a play for Sol Smith Russell, "An Everyday Man," which contained a fine character study.

Miss Merrington received the first prize of $500 from the New York Con-



MADELINE RYLEY.

servatory of Music for the libretto of "Daphne," a comic opera. The music will be furnished by Mr. Arthur Bird, a pupil of Liszt. So far this brilliant woman's contributions to the stage have been noticeable for unique character sketches and great skill in construction.

One of the present season's great successes, according to critics and managers, was the production of "Christopher, Jr.," at the Empire. After crowding the house for weeks in New York it was sent out on an equally successful tour of the western cities. Mrs. Madeline Lucette Ryley, the author of the play, is a beautiful vivacious woman, and an accomplished actress as well as a clever playwright.

Speaking of "Christopher, Jr." Mrs. Ryley said in a recent interview: "I wrote the play in six weeks and was six years in finding a manager to produce it. I think it has been in the hands of fifty different managers. Sometimes it was too long, sometimes too short, sometimes too light, and again too heavy. It is really astonishing, the variety of faults of which one simple little play is capable. No one who has not tried it can possibly understand how difficult it is to get a play accepted. Managers are afraid of a new playwright, especially of a woman. You are sure, if you are just beginning, to present a melodrama the season for farces, or a farce when tragedy is the fad; or again, if the character of the play is adapted to the fickle public, you have probably put too many men and women in the story, or made too many scenes, and that means enormous expense in production. And, last of all, you may succeed in every other particular and yet fail utterly from lack of knowledge of technique, or what is better known as stage business. A play is not finished when it is written. The first act is to get it accepted, the second to get it produced and the third to secure a public."

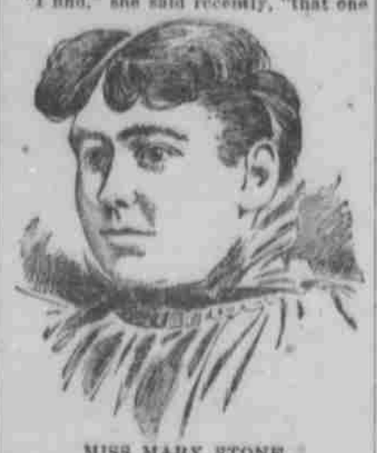
Mrs. Ryley's home charmingly reflects the artistic taste of the hostess. Fine oriental rugs, beautiful Bagdad draperies, and piles of cushions, large and small, form an interior at once luxurious and unique. Mrs. Ryley has just finished a play written to order for Nat Goodwin.

Miss Mary Stone, who is "reader" at the Garrick theater, New York, is a sweet-faced, charming-mannered Philadelphia girl. She is a regular "first-nighter" at New York theaters. Her work as "reader" demands that she familiarize herself not only with all new plays but with the popular dramatic taste as well.

Her first work for the stage was a dramatization of Stanley Weyman's "House of the Wolf" for Richard Mansfield. Her success, however, came with the production of "The Social Highwayman" by the Holland Brothers in September. This play was dramatized from a story by that name that appeared in Lippincott's July, 1895, and would have been brought out by Richard Mansfield had not his recent severe illness interfered with his plans. The Holland Brothers are at present making a successful tour with it through the United States.

Miss Stone is much interested in woman's progress.

"I find," she said recently, "that one



MISS MARY STONE.

of the most marked characteristics of the coming woman is a full sense of humor. Humor and culture are usually found hand in hand—not simply wit, but refined humor—and it is only among modern women that this is noticeable. I observe it on every side—in their books, their plays, their speeches and in ordinary conversation. Men have been humorous for centuries, but women are just beginning to develop this quality, so invaluable to the author and especially the playwright."

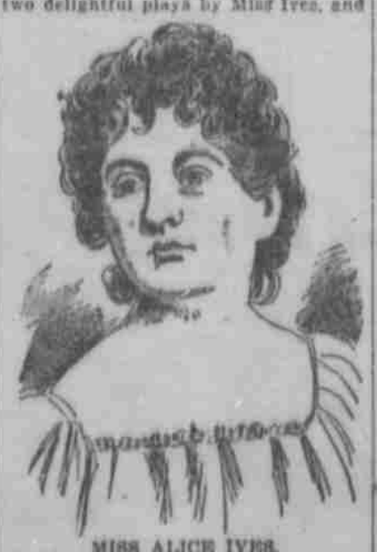
"The Brooklyn Handicap," produced at the Grand Opera House in New York in 1894, was the first sporting play written by a woman. When Miss Alice Ives was asked by a New York manager a couple of years ago whether she could write a "horse play," she replied: "I certainly don't know much about races, but I can try."

And to use Miss Ives' own words, "Trying means almost living on the race track for a couple of months following. I read all the sporting papers and talked about the turf with all the sporting men I could meet. Why, just to get one fact, the chest measure of one horse, I spent days visiting veterinary surgeons and livery stables. Finally I had to carry a tape measure and measure a vicious looking brute myself. You see, an amusing incident in the play hinged on that one thing, and I wanted my audience to laugh at the play, not at the author."

In regard to the money to be made by play-writing, Miss Ives said: "You have to wait a long time for success. Nothing is harder than to get a play accepted, but once accepted nothing pays better. Success, fame, money all come at once."

Miss Ives was born in Detroit, and her first literary efforts were for the local newspapers of her native city. To-day a more prolific and versatile writer would be hard to find. She has written graves and thoughtful articles for Harper's and the Century, and bright jokes for Puck. Her first play was a tragedy called "Don Roderic." Lawrence Barrett read this and wrote Miss Ives that it was full of poetical beauty.

"Lorine," in which Maida Craigan starred last season, and "Lavarre," are two delightful plays by Miss Ives, and



MISS ALICE IVES.

the "Flower of the Hill," which was given at the Berkeley Lyceum last fall, is another of her dramatic successes. Her style is up to date and realistic in the extreme.

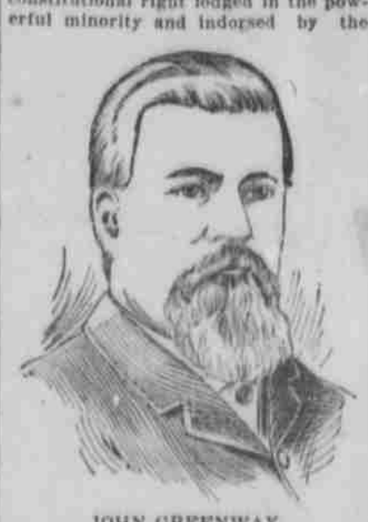
No matter what Paul's text was, whenever he preached his theme was Christ.

THOMAS GREENWAY.

THE LEADER OF THE MANITOBA LIBERALS.

He Has Defied the Imperial Authority and May Soon Lead the Manitobans to a Republican Form of Government.

IF Manitoba rebels against British rule and sets up an independent government of its own, which is by no means unlikely, the man who will lead the revolutionists will be Thomas Greenway, premier of the provincial government and hero of the hour in that colony of England. Greenway is something of a dictator—in fact, very much of a dictator—and a natural leader. He saw the importance of striking boldly out for the majority of Manitobans in the fight against religious schools in the province and paved the way for revolution by thrusting aside with contempt the order of the imperial privy council of London, which was a short command to him to restore the parochial schools. He is a man of strong character and implacable determination. He was born in Cornwall, England, on March 25, 1838, and was educated in Canada. He twice married in the latter country and went to Manitoba in 1868. He was returned to the dominion house of commons in 1871, and was unseated in the following year. He aided materially in settling and developing southern Manitoba, and was elected by acclamation to the legislature in 1879. He was re-elected in 1883, 1886 and 1888, and again in 1892. He formed a government on the resignation of the Harrison administration in 1888 and took the offices of president of the council and minister of agriculture and immigration. On July 23, 1892, he was returned to power. He is a man of tremendous force of character, boundless energy and progressive ideas. He has chiefly interested himself in agriculture and immigration matters. A thorough farmer himself, he understands the needs of that class and has caused the organization of agricultural societies and exhibitions, and of populating the country with a substantial kind of settlers. His attitude on the school question has been consistently aggressive, and it is believed he will be vindicated by the majority, despite the constitutional right lodged in the powerful minority and indorsed by the



JOHN GREENWAY.

highest tribunal in Great Britain and by the parliament of the dominion.

After Seventeen Years.

The daughter of Gilbert Mattson, a farmer living three miles south of Hector, has been heard from, says the Buffalo (Minn.) News. Seventeen years ago this summer the 4-year-old girl was sent out to carry a lunch to her brother, who was herding cattle not far from the house. This was the last seen of the little one until a letter from New York came recently to the home of the Mattsons from the daughter, now a young lady 21 years old.

After her sudden and mysterious disappearance the country was searched for miles around; all the sloughs were dragged and every effort made to recover the child who was lost. Finally the search was given up and the little girl was mourned as dead; and when what were supposed to be the bones of a small child and some pieces of clothing were found in a large slough near the Mattson farm, it was thought certain that the little one was dead, and all hopes died.

The letter which came to reawaken hopes in the hearts of the parents stated that, on his deathbed a man whom the girl had been brought up to believe was her father, had confessed that, seventeen years ago, he had stolen her from her prairie home. He told her the names of her parents, where they lived and fully described to her the particulars of her abduction. A letter written to verify the deathbed confession stated that the young lady would return at once to her home, from which she had been so long separated.

The story seems too strange to believe, but it is nevertheless true, and when the young lady comes there will be rejoicing in that home.

A Lover of Breton Folklore.

Le Vicomte Hersart de la Villemarque, who died the other day at the age of 80, had done more probably than anyone in this generation to popularize the knowledge of Breton folk-lore, folk-poetry and folk-music in France. His "Barzaz Breiz," a collection of the popular songs of Brittany, with the original melodies and critical excursus and notes, is a standard work. He was the first to provide a translation of the Breton bards of the earliest epochs.

MISS ROSE HOOPER.

A San Francisco Girl Famous on the Coast for Her Great Beauty.

One of California's sweetest flowers is Miss Rose Hooper, the only and lovely daughter of Major and Mrs. Hooper, of San Francisco. The metropolis of the west is noted for its beautiful women, and justly so. Other cities lay claim to a more than proportionate number of pretty women, young, middle aged and old. New Orleans, Baltimore, St. Louis, Chicago and Philadelphia are forward in this respect, and are generally admitted as showing much feminine beauty in the crowded thoroughfares. But no city on earth can compare with the brilliant town on the bay for the almost universal charm of its women. Miss Hooper is a debutante that has drawn widespread attention in San Francisco society. That she will be an ornament to that bright and gay life there is no doubt. Even as a child she thoroughly comprehended the duties of an entertainer and her birthday parties were models of youthful ele-

MISS ROSE HOOPER.

gance. Miss Hooper is a bud in the complete sense of that figure of speech.

London Chronicle's Commissioner.

Henry Norman, assistant editor of the London Chronicle, who came to America to tell the truth about the Monroe doctrine, has made a good impression by his personality and by his work. He has been paid the high compliment of having the dispatches which which he cabled from Washington to London immediately cabled back to New York for publication in the newspapers of the Associated Press. When he reached Washington he went quietly to a hotel and began his work. Though he had been in Washington several days, his dispatches cabled back from London and published in Washington first revealed his presence, though they did not reveal his name. He speaks six languages and some one has said that he knows all countries, has shot tigers in the Malay Peninsula, sipped coffee with Ferdinand of Bulgaria, has been the cause of diplomatic communications among European governments, knows how to make a cocktail, has written four famous books, is a sportsman to his finger tips, scents a piece of news a mile off, is a Parisian boulevardier one month and a desperately honest critic of Japan the next, and is a philosopher, courtier, diplomat and journalistic corkscrew by turns. Though Mr. Norman is an Englishman, he spent his boyhood in Paris and was educated at Harvard. When he was asked to come to America and tell the truth about the Monroe doctrine he had just returned from Constantinople, where he had been telling some things about the sultan and the Armenian atrocities. Mr. Norman's greatest feat was sending a telegram from Constantinople to his paper announcing that the sultan had accepted the scheme of Armenian reform imposed on him by the powers. In getting this big piece of news he beat many of the greatest newspaper correspondents in Europe, who were on the ground. Mr. Norman's first book was "An Account of the Harvard Greek Play," being a report of the performance of "Oedipus" by Harvard students. Mr. Norman him-

HENRY NORMAN.

self played in the cast as Creon. "The Real Japan" remains, perhaps, his greatest permanent literary work, though his "Peoples and Politics of the Far East" is an authority on the present conditions in Asia. Mr. Norman has visited nearly every country on the globe and all but six states in America, and yet he is under 40 years of age.

Vivisection at Harvard.

Tender hearted Bostonians became so excited over vivisection a short time ago that the professors in the Harvard Medical School issued a statement of what sort of vivisection was practiced under their supervision, what its use was, and how it affected the dumb creatures most intimately concerned. The report was not satisfactory, however.

If you are not against the saloon, what are you doing in the church?—Ram's Horn.

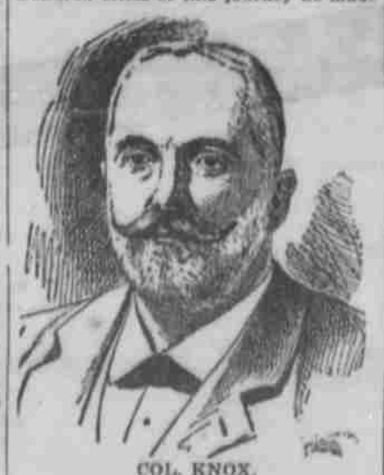
THE LATE COL. KNOX.

EVENTFUL CAREER OF A GREAT WAR CORRESPONDENT.

He First Won Distinction as a Member of the Staff of the New York Herald—His Journey Around the World—His Literary Productions.

COLONEL KNOX, the well-known war correspondent who died in New York recently, was a New Hampshire lad even to the time of his death—an old sort of boy, but a very lively one. In his boyhood days all his leisure time, and he had not much of it, was devoted to reading books of travel and adventure, and he longed to be in Africa, the holy land, or some remote spot of the world, following in the footsteps of some great traveler or historic hero, reading whose experiences had fired young Knox's imagination. It was clear that farming had no charms for him, and he seized the earliest opportunity of abandoning the occupation. He saved a little money out of his wages as a farmer's hired boy, and continued to improve himself by study and by going to school. When 23 years old he held the responsible position of principal of an academy in Kensington, N. H. Gold had been discovered in Colorado, and Thomas W. Knox wended his way thither. He soon found the occupation of gold digging hard and uncertain, so he went to Denver, and there became a reporter, and afterward city editor of the Denver Daily News.

When the civil war broke out Colonel Knox became a war correspondent in the field for the New York Herald. He was a volunteer aid in two campaigns, and received a commission as lieutenant colonel on the staff of the governor of California. He was wounded in a skirmish in Missouri, and at the close of the war went to New York to become a journalist and general writer. Under the title of "Camp Fire and Cotton Field" some of his letters from the seat of war were republished in 1865. Colonel Knox joined the regular staff of the New York Herald, and under its auspices made his first journey around the world. In 1866 an expedition was sent out by an American company to construct a telegraph line through northern Asia. Colonel Knox accompanied it. He traveled by way of Pacific ocean, Kamchatka, northeastern Siberia, the Amoor river, Mongolia and Chinese Tartary. Three thousand five hundred miles of this journey he made



COL. KNOX.

in sledges, and 1,500 miles on wheels. Though interesting in many ways, it was not altogether an exhilarating trip, was not altogether an exhilarating trip, reach Paris from St. Petersburg.

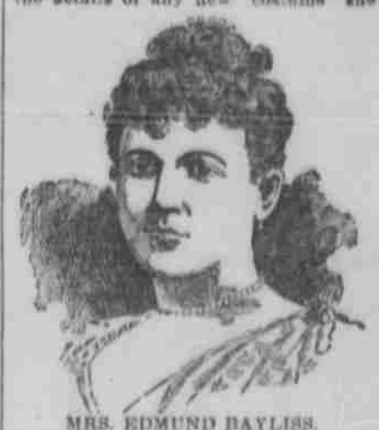
After he first acquired the taste for traveling and for adventure in foreign lands, Colonel Knox visited about every known country. In 1875, after a winter in Spain, Algeria and Morocco, Colonel Knox returned to New York to prepare for a voyage around the world. He began this in 1877, going to Japan, China, Siam, Java, India and Egypt once more, reaching Paris in time to serve as a member of the international jury at the Paris Universal Exposition of 1878. Perhaps the opinion of a king should not have more weight than that of any other person. Nevertheless, the king of Siam wrote to Colonel Knox that "The Boy Travelers in Siam" was the best account ever published of that kingdom, and conferred on him the decoration of the Order of the White Elephant in recognition of its merits. Colonel Knox was the first American to receive that honor.

Among Colonel Knox's more famous works are "Camp Fire and Cotton Field," "Southern Adventures in Time of War," "Overland Through Asia," "Underground, or Life Below the Surface," "Backsheesh, or Life in the Orient," "John, or Our Chinese Relations," "The Voyage of the Vivian to the North Pole," "Lives of Blaine and Logan," "Decisive Battles Since Waterloo," "Dog Stories and Dog Lore," "Life and Works of Henry Ward Beecher." His most pleasing and entertaining works for boys were two series of stories—first, "The Boy Travelers," descriptive of adventures in China, Japan, Siam and Java, Ceylon, and India, Egypt and the Holy Land, Africa, South America, on the Congo, and in the Russian Empire. He was qualified above all other men to handle these difficult topics, and how he did it is attested by the admiration of every real boy in the land. The second series was grouped under the title "Hunting Adventures on Land and Sea; the Young Nimrods in North America and the Young Nimrods in Europe, Asia and Africa." These books are well worth reading, even when one has passed the period of big imagination and love of outdoor life. Colonel Knox entered the youthful spirit of his task as completely as if he were a boy himself, which he was in heart and affections to the last. The latest work was "A Life of General Grant for Boys."

MRS. EDMUND BAYLISS.

She Is the Charming Wife of Gotham's New Society Leader.

Mrs. Edmund L. Baylies was a Van Rensselaer, and hence, so far as blue blood is concerned, is in every way qualified to lead those laborious and weary persons who make up the 400, 500, 35 or whatever it is of New York's society. That is to say, she is qualified to assist her husband in leading, for the real king of Gotham's best people is Mr. Baylies himself. This gentleman, it will be remembered, has been selected by some occult and inscrutable agency to fill the place left vacant by the passing of Ward McAllister. It is odd that the dead man's foremost canon should have been so disregarded in this matter. Mr. Baylies has a visible means of support. He is a pretty good lawyer. His wife has an attractive personality and a pretty face. She has the name of being the most graceful waltzer in New York. She has any number you please of exquisite gowns, and many women copy her in this respect. But so well does she understand the art of dressing that it is said that some of her women friends even are not able to recollect more than half the details of any new costume she



MRS. EDMUND BAYLISS.

wears, seen but once. As for the men, they don't know anything at all about it. She is remembered by them, not for the gorgeousness or simplicity of her attire, but by what she said and did during the evening. Her salon—if a New York drawing-room may be so designated—is much sought after, and she will be an invaluable aid to her husband in his new duties.

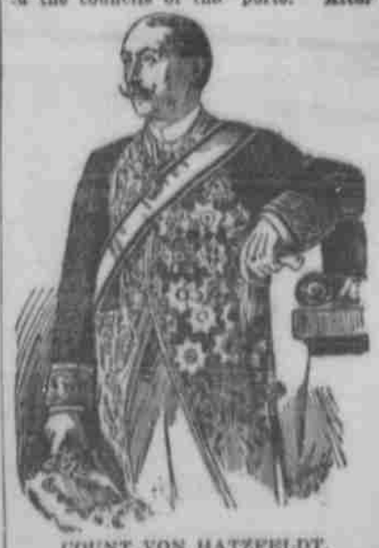
The Little Country Paper.

The morning papers lay on the seat beside him in the elevated train. He was reading with eagerness an awkward, crumpled little sheet. The printing of the paper was uncouth, for it looked as though half the letters were smashed. The impression of the type was dull and blurred.

It was the weekly paper printed in the little town where this prosperous, well-dressed New Yorker had been born and bred. Many a man who has carved his fortune in this city hails the little country paper every week as a welcome messenger. It tells how the crops are flourishing, how the fences are being whitewashed every spring, and, perhaps, once in a while there is a paragraph about the dear old mother who has got into print by entertaining sewing circle. And the prosperous New Yorker reads it entire while the metropolitan sheets lay beside him unheeded.—New York Herald.

The German Ambassador at London.

Count von Hatzfeldt, German minister to the court of St. James, is a gentleman of the old school. He was born in 1831. His mother, Sophie von Hatzfeldt, was the friend and patroness of Ferdinand Lassalle, the Jewish philosopher and social democrat. He has been a more or less important figure in diplomatic affairs since 1862, when he went with Bismarck to Paris as the prince's secretary. At the outbreak of the Franco-German war the great chancellor selected him to form one of his diplomatic suite. He was given the post of imperial minister at Madrid in 1874. The count was now in line for greater honors, which came to him in 1878. In that year he was sent to Constantinople to succeed Prince Reuss, with the special purpose of preserving the ascendency which Germany had acquired in the councils of the porte. After



COUNT VON HATZFELDT.

three years of this distinguished service he returned to Berlin and took the post that had been occupied by Von Bulow as secretary of foreign affairs. He is a great favorite with the emperor, who gave him his present eminent position in recognition of former able service and as a mark, too, of personal affection.

A peanut oil mill is to be established in Norfolk, Va., with a capital of $40,000 and an estimated capacity of 400 gallons a day.